

**International Development Research Centre**

**Middle East Good Governance Fund  
An IDRC Special Initiative**

**Presentation to Foreign Affairs  
Canada**



# Background

- ▶ Established November 26, 2004
- ▶ Duration: 4 ½ years until March 2009
- ▶ Budget: 5.35 million CAD
- ▶ Funders: CIDA Iraq Task Force (5 million); IDRC (350,000)
- ▶ Work in collaboration with FAC through a Consultative Committee



## Goal

- ▶ **Increase policy-relevant knowledge useful for promoting good governance in the Middle East, with special attention to Iraq**

# Team Members

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- ▶ Tim Dottridge, Director of SID

# **Working Definition of « Good Governance »**

- ▶ **Promotion of free and democratic space for civil society and political movements**



# Framework

- ▶ Promotion of freedom of association and expression
- ▶ Themes:
  - ▶ Role of civil society as a catalyst for change and policy influence
  - ▶ Political institutions as a link between civil society and policy processes
  - ▶ Cross-cutting themes: youth, gender, media



# Political Islam

- ▶ **Research Questions:**
  - ▶ Impact of integration in political systems and influence on “moderation”
  - ▶ How social movements and networks promote concepts of good governance
  - ▶ Room for dialogue between Islamist and secular movements on good governance
  
- ▶ **Relevant case studies:** Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Morocco, Yemen, Egypt



# Activities (ongoing and planned)

- ▶ Workshop on confessionalism (Iraq and Lebanon)
- ▶ Political party development (Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, Morocco, Algeria)
- ▶ Hamas political structure
- ▶ Islamist NGOs in Palestine
- ▶ Faith-based organizations in Lebanon
- ▶ Egypt Muslim Brotherhood case study
- ▶ NGO mapping in Iraq
- ▶ Research-Policy support to universities in Iraq



## Activities continued

- ▶ Tribalism and interaction with Islamist structures in Jordan, Yemen and Iraq
- ▶ Islamist perspectives on socio-economic development
- ▶ Turkey desktop case study
- ▶ Islamist social movements in Morocco
- ▶ Crisis Group on Iraq and Islamism
- ▶ Arab Reform Initiative

**For more information:**

**<http://www.idrc.ca/mesi>**